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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Association des femmes éducatrices du Mali

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

The organization was established on 31 May 1991 by a group of women educators in order to improve the living conditions of girls/women in rural and urban areas whose illiteracy continues to exclude them from any economic development, social and cultural processes. The organization is open to any women wishing to contribute towards the advancement of women in Mali.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mandate is to contribute towards the advancement of women and children through non-formal education, particularly literacy, information and training. The purpose of the organization is to advance the status of migrant women and girls and to increase their involvement in the local development process through non-formal education. The organization works in a district of Bamako and in regions of Mali, where it is increasing the involvement of women and girls in the local development process and is improving their literacy rates.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization is combating illiteracy and poverty among women and girls in Mali. Through its educational programme, it has taught some 14,000 migrant women and girls aged 8 to 20, from Mali's eight regions, to read and write. This education includes: reading, writing and arithmetic lessons in the Bambara language; information, education, communication and training on overall health and reproductive health, including family planning and combating sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; instruction on citizenship, the rights and duties of citizens and decentralization; an introduction to profitable income-generating activities in rural areas; and the importance of associations, groups and networks. The training is followed by a final assessment, organized in cooperation with the education authorities. The post-literacy programme is supported by a publication in French and in Bambara. The organization would like these girls to be focal points in their villages and to train their peers, with a view to minimizing migration to major cities. One of the organization's aims is to ensure that these newly literate women and girls are integrated in the local development process.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization is helping to reduce the poverty rate by combating illiteracy.

2. Association guinéenne pour la réinsertion des toxicomanes

Special, 2002

I. Introduction

Narcotic drugs are a global problem, irrespective of one's country, gender or race, much less social status. Prevention remains the most effective, and least expensive, weapon. However, for various reasons, prevention very often fails and drug abuse continues. When this happens, drug abusers need comprehensive care. If their treatment is successful, they will need healthier occupations and socio-occupational reintegration.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In the absence of funding for institutional support, the organization is limited to spontaneous activities or participation in the activities of its umbrella organizations. The organization's activities for the period 2006-2009 are summarized as follows: the development of a draft survey to assess drug abuse in the five communes of Conakry; the preparation of artwork, brochures and leaflets for the organization; correspondence with the national committee for drug control about relaunching satellite schools; involvement in the programme of activities held in Conakry for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking; participation in a training workshop for doctors and information technology officers on care for drug abusers (Nongo Taady Club), organized by the Ministry of Health under its mental health programme, and with financial support from the United Nations Children's Fund; the development of a reintegration project for young people in difficulty; participation in organizing the second session of the national committee for drug control; the establishment of partnerships with some 20 departments and units, as well as national and international institutions; commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Conakry in 2007; the preparation of a guide of conduct for delegates to various partner departments and institutions; the relaunch of satellite schools in Conakry; radio broadcasts on the outreach and identification programme of satellite schools in Conakry; and the preparation of letters of authorization for youth reintegration workshops.

3. Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

The organization was established in 1990 and is the largest workers' trade union association in the Russian Federation.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization works to protect fundamental workers' rights in the Russian Federation and promote decent work. It plays a leading social and labour relations role in the trade union party, as part of the Russian tripartite commission.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization: assured full and productive employment and decent work in the Russian Federation; advocated for full and productive employment and decent work at the international level; promoted gender mainstreaming in Russian society and trade union structures; promoted social protection, including HIV-AIDS awareness activities at the national and international levels; advocated changes to the system of global economic governance in order to make it more socially responsible and sustainable. In November 2007, the organization participated in a conference on precarious work, held in close cooperation with the International Trade Union Confederation and Global Unions. At that conference, the organization strongly rejected any attempts to make legal the worst forms of precarious work and has since then prevented the legalization of such practices. The organization managed to prevent numerous attempts to amend the labour legislation in the Russian Federation in the wake of the financial crisis from 2007 to 2009, which were aimed at reducing the fundamental workers' rights guaranteed by conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The organization also promoted the implementation of ILO conventions on the rights of particular groups of workers, including at a round table on "The legislative regulation of social and labour relations among Russian sailors with considering to ILO conventions and recommendations", held in Moscow in the national parliament in March 2007. The organization also cooperated with ILO as part of the cooperation agreement between the Russian Federation and ILO, signed in Geneva in June 2006. The organization actively advocated the interests of the most vulnerable workers, especially those from depressed regions and women. The organization was involved in a number of workshops and conferences with ILO, on themes such as labour and health protection, child labour, youth employment and HIV-AIDS.

4. Global Village for Rehabilitation and Development

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

The organization was founded in Udulibeda, Malkangiri district, India, in February 1996. It works for voiceless, orphaned and destitute children, women and children in difficulty and the poor, needy and defenceless.

Significant changes in the organization

The administrative office of the organization has changed to 00/2, Civil Township, Rourkela-4, Orissa, India.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization's mobile dispensary, sponsored by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs of the Government of India, covers 156 villages over 25 local self-governments, giving food, blankets and clothes to children and destitute elderly people. The organization provides boys and girls from poor families with training in computer skills, typing and tailoring, in many cases leading to employment. It also organizes health camps, sometimes sponsored by public banks or institutions, to meet the urgent needs of families in Malkangiri.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization's "Global Village" programme adopts institutional and non-institutional approaches to rehabilitate orphans and destitute children. The organization also runs a children's home at Birmitrapur, India, for 57 children aged 1 to 14, who are given home and family facilities and a family environment, despite financial constraints. They are also given food, clothing, shelter, education and vocational training. Girls and boys can stay at the home until the ages of 18 and 21 years respectively and there is a provision of 12 infants under the age of one year.

5. International Council of Psychologists

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

Founded in 1941, the organization is one of the oldest psychological organizations with consultative status. It has been involved with the United Nations since the 1980s and very active over the past four years. Most of its representatives are active in New York, and some are active in Geneva and Vienna.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is committed to advancing the science and practice of psychology worldwide, promoting its role in society, encouraging the use of psychological principles to enhance the development of a healthy society, and fostering goodwill among psychologists around the world. To that end, it seeks to strengthen international bonds between psychologists and broaden, develop and refine channels of communication among psychologists.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization is represented on committees involved in issues such as ageing, the family, human rights, mental health, migration and the status of women.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization participates in United Nations entities in New York, Geneva and Vienna, including the Economic and Social Council, the Department of Public Information and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. It participates in various commissions of the United Nations, on issues such as social development, the status of women and sustainable development.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization participates in meetings, contributes research papers and studies and joins other organizations in sponsoring programmes and meetings. The organization was elected to the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations.

The organization has been involved in the International Day of Older Persons and Mental Health Day, and participates in the Commission on Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Sustainable Development. It has spearheaded a Psychology Day at the United Nations in New York, in 2007, on the themes of natural disasters and psychology and, in 2007, on social justice. Those days provided an opportunity for United Nations ambassadors, staff and other NGO representatives to be aware of the presence of psychologists in the Organization and to know what psychology has to offer the United Nations.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization advances scientific leadership in issues prevalent on the global international agenda. It encourages the use of psychological knowledge for a more healthy and supportive environment throughout the world and works with various organizations, agencies and governmental agents with the intent of informing and educating all people regarding human rights, well-being and development of potential.

6. Israel Women's Network

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

The organization is a not-for-profit group of women who are united in their determination to improve the status of women in Israel, regardless of political affiliation, religious outlook or ethnic origin.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the organization is to achieve equal opportunities and rewards for all Israeli women, an essential element in transforming Israel into a just and productive society for all.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization submits shadow reports on the status of Jewish and Arab women in Israel every five years at the 10- and 15-year reviews of the Beijing Platform for Action. It publishes these reports in Israel, mentioning that they are submitted to the Council, thereby giving it visibility in Israel. The organization keeps in contact with Ruth Halperin Kadari, Israel representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It has also organized several side events at the United Nations, on issues such as "Young women at risk", focusing on Ethiopian girls.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization provides a hotline for women who are discriminated on the basis of gender at their workplace, and provides pro bono legal representation for women who have been fired from their employment. The organization's educational programme is aimed at changing attitudes and promoting sexual equality among young people from all sectors of Israeli society. Thanks to the success of the programme, the organization has decided to expand its educational activities to include boys in the Arab sector and teenage girls in Jewish education. The organization also runs programmes on community change, "Woman of valor", employment programme for girls, political change and women's rights.

7. Ladies Charitable Society

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

Founded in 1972, the organization provides a home for the elderly, disabled and sufferers of multiple sclerosis.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization supports and assists 1,750 needy residents, free of charge. It provides a superior quality of life and education up to the university level to young disabled people, sufferers of multiple sclerosis, members of the staff of the home and their families. It also provides physiotherapy facilities such as hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, mechanotherapy and occupational therapy.

B. Significant changes in the organization

The organization has established a museum, including a collection of memorabilia from volunteers, as a means of generating financial income. In terms of its educational programmes, the organization has eliminated illiteracy among its residents, the staff and their families, which has had a great impact on the surrounding areas within the township.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization provided financial support to tsunami and flood victims in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United States of America.

Due to lack of funds, low finances and travel restrictions, representatives of the organization have been unable to attend United Nations-related seminars, meetings or conferences. Its members did, however, attend the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, held in 2002.

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has taken part in projects in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund to promote educational programmes for earthquake victims in Roodbar, Afghanistan, and protect rice fields from pesticides all over Gillan province. It also supported Afghan refugees in the Kahrizak region, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization's development programmes impacted the health, education and life quality not only of its residents, staff and their families, but also of the outlying areas. The organization provides equal education opportunities to both girls and boys in the Kahrizak area and meals to local schools, to fight undernourishment among underprivileged children. It promotes the local labour market by employing local people at its centre, thus reducing unemployment and the strains of poverty. The organization also considers the empowerment of women at all levels one of its highest priorities. Its provision of free health awareness programmes, particularly for women, has greatly reduced not only child mortality rates but also family planning concepts both at the centre and in the township. The organization provides medical facilities and medication for various epidemic complications to its residents, the families of its staff and local Afghan refugees.

8. World Organization of the Scout Movement

General, 1998

I. Introduction

In 2007, the organization celebrated its centenary.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to contribute to the education of young people through a value system based on the scout promise and law and to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization participated in the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in 2007 and 2008, respectively. A representative of the organization presented a joint statement to the fourth session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva in March 2007, and a statement to the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, held in July 2007, on behalf of the Committee on Youth of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. It was represented at sessions of the General Assembly and the United Nations Population Fund, both held in New York in 2007, and was re-elected to the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations for a period of three years.

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization of the Scout Movement participated in activities to mark the 2006-2009 World Day Against Child Labour. It is also involved in joint initiatives at the local level with the International Labour Organization.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Millennium Campaign, to inform, inspire and encourage involvement in and action for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, with a particular focus on mobilizing young people. It also promoted and participated in the "Stand Up Against Poverty" campaigns in 2006 and 2007.